

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following list of claims is provided for the Examiner's convenience:

1. (Previously Presented) An ultra-low carbon stainless steel which comprises a seal function layer in a surface layer,  
  
wherein the seal function layer is formed by an ion implantation method, and  
  
the ultra-low carbon stainless steel contains carbon in an amount of 0.01% by weight or less.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim 1, wherein the ion is a nitrogen ion.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to any one of claims 1 or 3, wherein the ultra-low carbon stainless steel is dehydrogenated in advance.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)